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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Report of [redacted] Ships' Calls at Gdynia

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SUPP. TO  
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1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted] the activity in the port of Gdynia [redacted] very slow. The last few times [redacted] there were never more than four or five ships at a time. The pilotage and tug situation in the port have been poor ever since World War II. [redacted] only three low-powered tugs in [redacted] condition. Two of these were ex-US Navy types, probably YTL types. The operations of these tugs and cooperation with the pilots often is so poor as to render them useless. [redacted]

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4. The consignee for all deliveries into Gdynia is the Morska Agencja which is the governmental agency handling all shipping arrangements. The management of this agency is still Polish and many of the former Polish agents are assigned to this agency. However, the Soviets maintain very strict control of their activities and a close check of the personnel. The agents are timed as to the length of time they are away from the office, how long they are on the ship, to whom they talk and for how long, what they eat, drink and smoke. One [redacted] who was with the Agencja for several years after World War II and who had been their agent before the war (Gdynia-Amerika Line), disappeared about two years ago. [redacted]

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5. The port facilities themselves appear not to have been improved over the past several years. [ ] not [ ] any lifting equipment on the docks that [ ] All cargo is handled with the ship's gear. The longshoremen are Polish, but their controller is Soviet, and [ ] the longshoremen are answerable for their time and actions the same as the agents. Cargo is handled on a 24-hour basis seven days a week, [ ]

[ ] the Gneisenau had been scrapped. [ ] the steel in her, and [ ] the opening in the breakwater she was covering would be filled in and the northern entrance used exclusively. [ ]

[ ] two or three ships of the defunct Gdynia-Amerika Lines were in the old German shipyard half way between Gdynia and Gdansk, one of them supposedly being converted into a troop transport by the Soviets. [ ] when the Gdynia-Amerika Line ceased operations they had tried to sell the ships to the East Asiatic Company, but the Soviets had grabbed control of them for their own interests. The names of the ships were [ ] in the class named for heroes of Poland.

6. The port authorities institute the usual search of the ship and muster of the crew. All radio equipment, cameras and binoculars are sealed. The crew are allowed ashore using a pass provided by the local authorities. The agents provide the Polish money necessary to purchase anything ashore, but each man is allowed so little that it is hardly worthwhile trying to purchase anything. The people in the city are friendly to the seamen and there appears to be no prejudice or bitterness with outsiders. The Soviets in the city are quite a bit stiffer in their associations, but they seem more polite and obliging when there are women present.

7. [ ] no warships [ ] in the area of Gdynia and [ ] no submarine patrols. However, on [ ] the Finnish Gulf [ ] there are always many Soviet ships and submarines [ ] in May 1951 [ ] six Soviet subs, surfaced, in the area 21° North and 58° East off the entrance to the Gulf of Riga. These submarines did not appear to be on an extended or directed voyage but appeared to be operating in the local area. [ ] into the Gulf of Finland [ ] the Soviets have imposed a restricted area off the coast of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. At the point off the Soviet-owned area of Porkkala the Gulf is narrowed to a five-mile channel, with the buoy line off Porkkala on the north and the prohibited Soviet area on the south. [ ] this area on the south was prescribed [ ] to mariners [ ] This notice stated that this area was mined, and it is so written onto the ship's chart of the area.

[ ] The area of Porkkala is guarded very zealously, both from sea and land, and [ ] the Soviets may be building up naval facilities in the area. [ ] this narrowing of the channel makes navigation dangerous in times of heavy weather and poor visibility.

8. [ ] May 1951 [ ] The super-highway was nearly finished at that time, and [ ] it should be finished by now. [ ] on the great amount of construction and reconstruction going on in Gdansk. It seemed that the city was being completely rebuilt. [ ]

[ ] at Zoppot [ ] quite a bit of activity at the resort. Many Soviets were there, seemingly on vacation. [ ] there was still an upper class society among the Soviets, as some of the Soviet women at the resort were dressed in the latest western European styles and fashions in clothes and furs.

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The old casino and large hotel were both operating, but neither so pre-  
tentiously as before World War II. There was an art exhibition in Zoppot at  
[redacted] It included paintings and sculpture. 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] about 75% of the exhibits were of Soviet origin. 50X1-HUM

9.

10.

Comment:

[redacted] the port of Gdynia is being little used  
at this time, and [redacted] very small cargoes only are picked up there, none of  
which are industrial goods and [redacted] the imports are usually raw materials,  
rubber, copper, tin, etc. Although [redacted] not [redacted] any specific naval  
units other than the submarines, [redacted] very decided on the accelerated  
activity and presence of surface units in the upper Gulf of Finland.

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